



## RESPONSIBLE REFORM FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRATS.SENATE.GOV/REFORM

### **Kentucky: The Cost of Inaction**

#### **Kentucky Families Suffer**

##### **Kentucky insurance premiums skyrocket**

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$5,197.
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$9,864.
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$18,721, a 90 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 48.4 percent of projected Kentucky median family income.

##### **More uninsured Kentuckians**

- ✓ Every day, 230 Kentuckians lose their health insurance.
- ✓ During the last two years, 1,171,000 Kentuckians under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 32 percent of the under 65 population.
- ✓ In 2007, 604,929 Kentuckians under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 16.4 percent of the under 65 population.

##### **Kentuckians pay higher premiums due to the uninsured**

- ✓ Kentucky families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,100 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured.

##### **Fewer choices due to consolidated market**

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Kentucky have a combined market share of 69 percent.

#### **Kentucky Businesses Suffer**

##### **Fewer Kentuckians have health coverage at work**

- ✓ In 2002, 66.6 percent of Kentuckians under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance.
- ✓ In 2007, 59.3 percent of Kentuckians had coverage through their employer.

##### **Fewer Kentucky small businesses offer health coverage**

- ✓ In 2000, 50.2 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees.
- ✓ In 2006, 42.0 percent of small businesses offered health benefits.

#### **Kentucky Economy Suffers**

##### **Health care spending climbs**

- ✓ In 2004, Kentucky spent \$22.7 billion on health care.
- ✓ This spending level represents \$5,473 per capita, and is 16.9 percent of the Gross State Product.

##### **Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health**

- ✓ This year, the Kentucky economy will lose \$1.6 billion - \$3.2 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured.